

# A L A S K A S T A T E M U S E U M S

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM, JUNEAU ❖ SHELDON JACKSON MUSEUM, SITKA

## PRESS RELEASE

### Alaska State Museum

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### STATE MUSEUM OFFERS DOCENT TRAINING

Have you ever thought about working in a museum? Would you like to help show off the state's extraordinary collection of historic treasures? The Alaska State Museum needs you!

The State Museum is recruiting new docents - volunteers who specialize in giving tours of the museum. Training sessions will be held during the first week of May, and will include workshops on Native cultures in Alaska, a hands-on workshop on coil basketry techniques, the purchase of Alaska, and Russian Orthodoxy in Alaska, all of which will highlight objects on display.

The Alaska State Museum Docent Program is a volunteer activity in which individuals through training become museum educators who then conduct individually designed tours of the galleries for visitors of all ages. Tours are typically forty-five minutes long. During the summer, tours are offered throughout the day, and focus on an overview of the permanent collection or the summer exhibitions. During the rest of the year, tours are offered as requested, and are designed specifically for each requesting group. Docent tours foster visitor appreciation and an understanding of the cultures, history, art and nature of Alaska.

Docents recommit to the program on a yearly basis. Each spring the Alaska State Museum hosts a series of training workshops in which docents, both returning and new, hone their skills of interpreting exhibitions, interpersonal communication, and help create an atmosphere of excitement and inspiration at the State Museum.

Those interested in registering for docent training should contact Mary Irvine at 465-2901, or via e-mail at: [mary\\_irvine@eed.state.ak.us](mailto:mary_irvine@eed.state.ak.us)

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